

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 AID-20 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

NSC-10 SS-14 STR-08 CEA-02 PM-09 H-02 L-03 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /173 W
----- 053485

R 141549 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

UNCLAS PARIS 06308

E. O. 11652 N/ A
TAGS: ETRN, FR
SUB: CIVAIR: MEA INTEREST IN CONCORDES

REF: BEIRUT 0810

1. THE FRENCH PRESS REPORTS THAT ARAB AMBASSADORS TO FRANCE ARE TO FLY ON THE CONCORDE TODAY WITH HENRI ZIEGLER, DIRECTOR OF AEROSPATIALE. THEY WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE ESCORTED ON A TOUR OF AEROSPATIALE FACILITIES IN TOULOUSE, AND THEN WILL RETURN TO A RECEPTION IN THEIR HONOR AT ORLY.
 2. FRENCH PRESS HAS SPECULATED RECENTLY THAT THIS AND OTHER REPORTED MEETINGS BETWEEN ARAB OFFICIALS AND AEROSPATIALE REPS REFLECT A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE FRENCH TO SELL THE CONCORDE IN THE MID- EAST. THE PRESS SUGGESTS THAT A MULTINATIONAL ARAB AIRLINE COMPANY IS ENVISIONED, WHICH WOULD PURCHASE AND OPERATE A NUMBER OF CONCORDE AIRPLANES.
 3. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF ARAB INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD, BUT IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE FRENCH HOPE TO TRADE ON THEIR " SPECIAL" POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS TO PROMOTE SALES OF CONCORDE. FRENCH BANKER INVOLVED IN CONCORDE FINANCING TOLD EMBOFF MARCH
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13 THAT KUWAIT, LEBANON AND LIBYA SHOWING INTEREST IN CONCORDE
AND THAT PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD
ULTIMATELY BUY SEVERAL PLANES. KUBISCH

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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